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knowledge of the language, almost invariably acts upon the spirit as an elevating and steadying force, who have felt the cultural value which is attached to a serious study of his life and works, who appreciate, to use Dr. Goebel's own words, "what freedom of spirit, what new life would flow in upon us from an acquaintance with Goethe's mode of thought," will unite with the writer in according to this book a hearty welcome.

H. Z. Kip.

Vanderbilt University

Katalog over de oldnorsk-islandske haandskrifter i det store kongelige bibliotek og i universitetsbiblioteket, udgivet af kommissionen for det arnamagnaeanske legat. 8vo lxxv+517 pp. Copenhagen, 1900.

The present catalogue, published by the Commissioners for the Arnamagnaen Fund, forms a valuable supplement to the catalogue of the Arnamagnean collection of old Norse manuscripts in the Copenhagen University library, published in two volumes between the years 1889-94. The present work, like its predecessor, has been prepared by the librarian of the Arnamagnaen collection, Dr. Kr. Kaalund, and the learned author has added to its value by introducing it with a monograph dealing with the "gathering and preservation of the Old Norse Literature", in the same manner as the catalogue of the Arnamagnaen collection was accompanied by a history of that famous depository of Norse history and philology. In his introduction to the present volume Dr. Kaalund describes in detail the movement by which the old literary treasures of Iceland and Norway gradually disappeared from their native soil and were gathered and preserved—and in some cases destroyed, namely in the great fire of 1728—in Copenhagen chiefly in the two great libraries, the University library and the great Royal library, and to a smaller extent in Stockholm and Upsala. Some manuscripts, mostly fragments, are still extant in Norway, in the University library and the State Archive in Christiania, but on the whole it may be said that the two countries where the old literature was born and flourished, and where it almost exclusively was read and appreciated while yet a living literature, are now

depleted of their treasures, with scant, if any, prospect of anything of great value turning up there after this day. Up to the middle of the 17th century very few Old Norse manuscripts went beyond their original territory, Norway and Iceland, but as the interest for history awakened in the other Scandinavian countries and the eyes of the learned world were opened to an appreciation of the mass of valuable information to be found in these old volumes, these manuscripts were per fas et nefas—in fact quite as often per nefas—removed from their native homes in order to form the pride and mainstay of the Danish and Swedish libraries. And, however galling this fact may be to children of the nations that lost them, still there can probably be no doubt that it was the best that could happen under the circumstances, for it may be assumed with certainty that more of the literature has been preserved in this manner than would have come down to the present time, if these manuscripts should for centuries more have been left in Icelandic parsonages or farmhouses, or in the lumber rooms of Norwegian manors, and parsonages and the residences of local officials. In addition to the old Icelandic and Norwegian manuscripts in the Scandinavian collections, there are also some extant in the British Museum, in the Bodleian library in Oxford and in the Advocates' library in Edinburgh, as well as isolated ones in Holland (Utrecht), Germany (Wolfenbüttel and Tübingen), Austria (Vienna) and France (Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris).

The present catalogue comprises not only all old Norwegian and Icelandic manuscripts in the Great Royal Library and the Copenhagen University (with the exception of the Arnamagnæan collection, of course, whereof only the additions since 1894 are given) but also all manuscripts relating to Norway and its old dependencies (Iceland, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Orkneys, Hebrides etc).

Among the most noted manuscripts with which the catalogue deals, we mention the *Codex Reginus* of the *Elder Edda*, Gl. Kgl. Sml. 2365, 40, certainly one of the most valuable relics of medieval Germanic thought (a phototype reproduction of this manuscript was published by the "Samfund til Udgivelse of Gammel nordisk litteratur" in 1891); *Flatey jarbók* G. Kgl. Sml. 1005, I—II fol., one of the best preserved and most sumptuous old Icelandic manuscripts, containing a comprehensive, but uncritical collection of

the sagas of the Norwegian kings, with all possible additions and digressions. This is one of the few manuscripts where the writers' names and the date of its origin are known (a phototype reproduction of a part of this manuscript was prepared by the Danish General Staff for the Chicago Exhibition); furthermore the *Codex Regius* of *Snorra Edda*, the *Hrokkinskinna*, the *Morkinskinna*, *Codex Frisianus* and many others.

With the above mentioned catalogue of the Arnamagnæan collection, the present work forms an invaluable and to every scholar of Scandinavian antiquities indispensable key to the treasures contained in the named Copenhagen libraries.

Having completed these two catalogues the commissioners of the Arnamagnæan Fund are now preparing a publication that promises to be of extreme interest, a palaeographic atlas which in two series—one Old Danish and one Old Norwegian-Icelandic—will contain phototype specimens of the most important manuscripts, as a rule one page of each, with transcription of the text opposite. The plates will be arranged chronologically, but otherwise on the whole patterned on the series published by the Palæographical Society of London. This publication will give the study of Scandinavian antiquities a broader basis than it has heretofore had, inasmuch as it will allow also those scholars who have not the opportunity of examining a great number of manuscripts in the Libraries to form an independent opinion about the relative age and value of the different manuscripts.

P. GROTH.

New York.